

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2001 LB 620

the amendment deserves much more comment, thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Vrtiska, on the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I...I stand in support of the amendment, but I would like to place in your memory that, if you vote for this, I'd like to have you vote for my amendment that's coming up, and that would change the tier down to a lower level, where I don't think there would be any problem with anybody in being able to qualify for the advantage they can take of this legislation. I think it would happen so quickly that...and I don't think it's an urban/rural split. I think it's just a case of trying to do the same thing for some small communities across the state that we're trying to do for some of the large communities. And I support those things for some of those large communities because I understand the dynamics of it, I understand the revenues that are generated and it helps us all. But while we're doing that I would like to see an opportunity for some of the smaller communities to take advantage of it. And I think lowering it to the level that I'm talking about, \$10 million and 25 jobs, would not be a difficult mark to reach, would give an advantage for a community to jump in, we're only talking about one, and take advantage of it soon as the bill is in place. And I can assure you I'm...that that, in my mind, no doubt would happen. So I don't think it's pitting one against the other, I think it's just giving an opportunity for each side to...each...each group of...of communities to have the same advantage. Because obviously the community that I talked to you about earlier, that's in my district, could not have reached the...they have reached it, but they couldn't at the outset reach the level that the lower tier now dictates or suggests. But they could have very easily reached the level that I'm talking about, and would have created those jobs, albeit certainly not 500 jobs, or 250 jobs, but 25 jobs. And I think most of you recognize that 25 jobs in a small community is even probably more than 250 or 500 jobs in one of the larger communities. So I guess I would hope that you would consider this amendment and then, when